

I was proud to lead all 50 Senate Republicans in a letter last week, urging President Biden to drop this misguided proposal, and I will continue to do everything I can to protect family farms and businesses from this new tax.

There should be a limit on how many times the Federal Government can tax you. Americans' bank accounts should not be regarded as a bottomless barrel of money to pay for Democrats' preferred government programs, because that is exactly what is happening here. Democrats want to massively and permanently expand government, and they are looking to Americans and American businesses to pay for their social experiments. They apparently haven't spent much time considering how our economy or American families would suffer as a result of their tax-and-spending spree.

Middle-class Americans should not have to see their inheritances shrink to pay for Democrats' spending, and family farms and businesses that already face challenges from our current death tax should not have to be worrying that a new death tax will spell the end of their hard-earned legacies.

I hope the Democrats will think twice before moving forward with this new tax increase on Americans.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote starts.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATIONS OF GWYNNE A. WILCOX AND DAVID M. PROUTY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, over the past 4 years, the National Labor Relations Board, which was founded to protect workers' rights, has again and again tipped the scales in favor of very large corporations.

While Democratic nominees to the NLRB were blocked and anti-worker nominees were jammed through, we saw decades of worker protections reversed. This has had a devastating impact on workers in our country, who are not only struggling through this pandemic but who have also seen their rights to strike and organize and bargain collectively undermined and constrained in ruling after ruling.

But, today, the Senate has the opportunity to begin healing this damage by confirming two exceptionally qualified individuals. That is why I am urging all of our colleagues to join me in supporting David Prouty and Gwynne Wilcox to serve on the NLRB.

Mr. Prouty's career is defined by his commitment to workers, with a long record representing textile workers, hotel workers, restaurant workers, baseball players, and now as a lawyer for the SEIU Local 32BJ, property service workers.

Ms. Wilcox's experience as a field attorney for the NLRB, as a lawyer representing workers before the Board,

and defending healthcare workers and protecting their rights makes clear that she has the right qualifications and values for this job.

Ms. Wilcox is not only a high-qualified nominee, she will be a historic one. She will be the first Black woman to serve on the Board, and her confirmation will bring us a step closer to ensuring our worker protections Agencies represent the diverse workforce they serve.

It is clear to me we need David Prouty and Gwynne Wilcox on the NLRB to reverse the damage done by years of anti-worker attacks and get us back on the right track of building back an economy that works for everyone, not just huge corporations and those at the top.

Now more than ever, we need to join with workers and defend their rights. Today, that means voting to confirm Gwynne Wilcox and David Prouty.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 257, Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2023.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Mark R. Warner, Brian Schatz, Sherrod Brown, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2023, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 281 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

#### NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from 1:10 p.m. until 1:55 p.m. today. I further ask that all postcloture time on the Wilcox nomination expire at 2:45 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JANUARY 6 SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday, Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON called to order the first hearing of the special committee that most of our Republican colleagues have tried to block, the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol.

It continues to amaze me that an independent, bipartisan committee to investigate the worst assault on our democracy since the War of 1812, an assault that left one police officer dead and more than 140 injured, was filibustered and stopped in its tracks by the Republican leader of the Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL.

That is exactly what he did. He tried to conceal the truth about what happened on January 6. He tried to hide it from the American people and to do this without police officers in this building noticing, many of whom risked their lives on that day. Well, we saw yesterday that he failed. Senator MCCONNELL failed to stop the investigation. We are going to learn what

happened on January 6, despite his effort to stop it.

During the first hearing of the select committee yesterday, we heard testimony from four police officers who battled the mob for hours on January 6. Many of us witnessed it. Two members of the Capitol Police Force and two from the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, DC, testified. These officers were brutalized in hand-to-hand combat. Some thought they were going to die. And they are still grappling with the physical and emotional trauma they suffered.

Officer Harry Dunn recounted yesterday how the mob of the former President's supporters chanted the N-word in his face.

Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone testified that members of the mob attempted to steal his service weapon and kill him with it. He was dragged into the mob, tasered repeatedly, and beaten unconscious. He suffered a heart attack and a traumatic brain injury. This is what Officer Fanone said yesterday: "My fellow citizens, including so many of the people I put my life at risk to defend, are downplaying or outright denying what happened. I feel like I went to hell" he said, "and [came] back to protect them and the people in this room. But too many are now telling me that hell doesn't exist or that hell wasn't exactly that bad."

Is that how we are going to treat police officers in the Capitol? I ask that of the Senators and the House Members.

They risk their lives every day to defend us, to defend this building, to defend what it stands for. Instead of thanking them, are some of my colleagues going to deny the brutality that they faced? That cannot be. These brave officers deserve better. At the very least, they deserve that the truth be told.

One of the most searing images from January 6 was that of a police officer screaming in agony as he was pinned against the metal door and beaten by this insurrectionist mob.

Yesterday, that man, Metropolitan Police Officer Daniel Hodges, told the select committee: "There can be no moving on without accountability. There can be no healing without making sure this will never happen again."

To all of the police officers who held the line on January 6, let me say clearly: You defended the American democracy. You didn't just defend this building and the Members of Congress. And if not for your heroism and sacrifice, the terrible toll of that day would have been far worse. Take solace in the fact that you did your duty.

But there are Members of the Senate and the House who are failing to do theirs. Right now, this Senate has a chance to finally do right by our police officers.

Yesterday, Chairman LEAHY and Vice Chairman SHELBY announced a bipartisan \$2.1 billion security supplemental

funding package that will not only pay the salaries of our Capitol Police officers, it will increase security at the Capitol. It will reimburse the National Guardsmen who were deployed to defend this building after January 6—a great sacrifice.

That package would also provide relief to another group of heroes who risked their lives for America and who did so on foreign soil: our civilian partners in Afghanistan. This package would provide an additional 8,000 special immigrant visas to Afghan interpreters who supported our diplomats and troops on the frontlines of America's longest war.

As we begin to finally bring our troops home from Afghanistan, let's not forget the heroes who supported them and risked their lives to help them. Many of these individuals and their families are no longer safe if the Taliban takes control. We need to give them a new home in America. I am glad this bill provides the means to do so.

I thank Senator LEAHY for leading the negotiations. I hope every Senator will support it.

Yesterday, Officer Harry Dunn told the Select Committee about the anxiety he and other officers felt when the remaining security fence around the Capitol was taken down, but little else has been done to protect this building from another mob insurrection.

Officer Dunn said: "When that fence came down—when we lost that last layer of protection—that was hard. . . . The fence came down and still nothing has changed. Everything is different, but still nothing has changed."

This is the time to show the officers who protected us and the world that when you defend America in our time of need, we will stand by you. I urge all my colleagues to support the security supplemental bill. It is the least that we can do.

Mr. President, there is one other thing I would like to say. It is just too close to call. I thought about it long and hard, and it is just too close to call.

In an effort to plumb the depths of political meanness and irresponsibility, it is just hard to choose between Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham. First, they became our Nation's leading anti-vax quacks, making their specious arguments against life-saving COVID-19 vaccines and sowing doubt among their viewers, who were literally putting their lives at risk because of the lies that these two individuals are spouting. And now—and now—they are creating a braying chorus focused on defaming the police who defended this building on January 6.

Their mockery of the bravery of the Capitol and DC police, who risked and some lost their lives on the January 6 attack on the Capitol Building, is cowardly and shameful.

It took courage for the police to face the Trump mob. It takes no courage for these FOX talking-heads to belittle

these officers. It takes no courage to practice their well-worn smirks reacting to the bravery of these policemen.

It is hard to imagine reading a press account of what they said yesterday and last night about the hearing that took place, the things that they did. Ingraham gave the "best performance in an action role" to Washington Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, who, during the testimony, recalled fearing he would be shot with his own gun.

Ingraham said: "Well, there was certainly a lot of violence that day, but it was not a terrorist attack. It wasn't 9/11. It wasn't the worst thing that ever happened to America. It wasn't an insurrection."

And then Tucker Carlson responded with a smirk to the footage of Fanone telling the hearing he had experienced post-traumatic stress disorder.

Throughout the monologue, Carlson piled onto his previous claims about the violence just being a "political protest that got out of hand."

First the vaccines and now defaming the police—this is irresponsible from start to finish. I would ask those at FOX network, not exactly my friends and allies in politics, to show common decency and common sense—common sense when it comes to these vaccines, which we know if more people were vaccinated we wouldn't be facing this resurgent need for masks and fear of this new variant. And common decency when it comes to the men and women in uniform when it comes to risking their lives for this Capitol, this democracy, and this government. Certainly, there is freedom of speech, but let's hope that good sense will dominate this discussion over at the FOX network as to whether these two ought to be allowed to continue their rant.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my understanding that prior to my remarks on the floor, we were going to recognize the Senator from Minnesota for 10 minutes or so. So if that is still desired by the Senator from Minnesota, I would be glad to yield.

And since the Senator from Minnesota is not present, I will go ahead and make my remarks.

I do ask unanimous consent that I be recognized as if in morning business for such time as I shall consume.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

LIGADO

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first of all, I am here today to share some news about a key subject we have been talking about for quite some time, and that is Ligado. It is a complicated thing. It is something where one company was able to get rushed over a weekend in April of 2020 and get recognized and get an agreement from the FCC to have an operation that deals with the individuals that are wanting to be involved in this group.